

TRAVIS COUNTY

# SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

2018

This report presents solid waste management activities including but not limited to operational waste diversion programs, household hazardous waste and community outreach. The report breaks down how each material is managed sustainably followed with highlights of department recycling contributions in Fiscal Year 2018.





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### **Executive Summary**

Travis County has approximately 5,000 employees working at more than 40 buildings to provide services for the 1.2 million residents of the County. In order to preserve the natural resources of Travis County and minimize operational impacts, the County has implemented internal policies on green purchasing, recycling, and LEED building practices that include energy and water conservation. Additionally, recycling and waste diversion activities take place at all County facilities to reduce the amount of Travis County-generated waste being sent to local landfills. The County also collaborates with other organizations, such as the City of Austin, on many recycling and clean-up events for county residents. While the County strives to encourage recycling and meet purchasing goals, there are ways to increase revenue from recycling more items and decrease our contribution to the waste that ends up in landfills. In addition to external partners, Travis County has a group of employees, the Green Team, that continue to improve internal sustainability efforts. Travis County strives for continuous improvement to reduce waste, decrease costs, and exemplify operational excellence.

### **Highlights**

Travis County sustainability achievements in the past year include:

- Recycling programs generated revenue<sup>1</sup> of \$including, electronics recycling revenue of \$55,491<sup>2</sup>
- Recycled 347 tons of material.

The Sustainability Program is instrumental in coordinating internal efforts for materials management and waste diversion that satisfy the policy directives of the Commissioners Court. The results of implementation produce public and environmental benefits beyond the monetary value of recycling revenues and avoided disposal costs<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Revenue is generated from the following contracts: Texas Disposal Systems, Austin Pallet Recycling, CES, Austin Metal and Iron and CMC.

<sup>2</sup> Electronics recycling revenue is derived from Dell Purchasing Contract as a line item.

<sup>3</sup> Fortune Magazine's article "Like it or not, sustainability is now core to your business" provides research from Harvard University on THE IMPACT OF CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY ON ORGANIZATIONAL PROCESSES AND PERFORMANCE. (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w17950.pdf> )

### Acknowledgments

Travis County employees take part in the county's commitment to a sustainable workplace. Without their service, Travis County would not be able to accomplish the cultural change that began in 2013. We sincerely acknowledge the Travis County Green Team, the Toner Ambassadors, The Travis County CARE Program, Commissioner Shea's Office, Three Rings for Learning Committee and all of the County Departments who provide data for this report.



### County Resource Recovery

The Travis County Commissioners' Court adopted the Travis County Waste Management Policy (WMP) on December 17, 1996. The primary goals of the policy are to:

- Reduce material and waste disposal costs;
- Reduce the volume of material sent to landfills;
- Reduce the use of limited natural resources;
- Prevent environmental pollution associated with waste disposal; and
- Promote the purchase and use of recycled materials.

The policy directs County departments to minimize the number of waste materials they generate through the implementation of waste reduction strategies and procedures and provides implementation guidelines. Unless otherwise directed by law, the policy directs that the means for achieving the County's goals must meet feasibility criteria related to clearly demonstrable conservation benefits, as well as cost and operational efficiency.

### **Purchasing Goals**

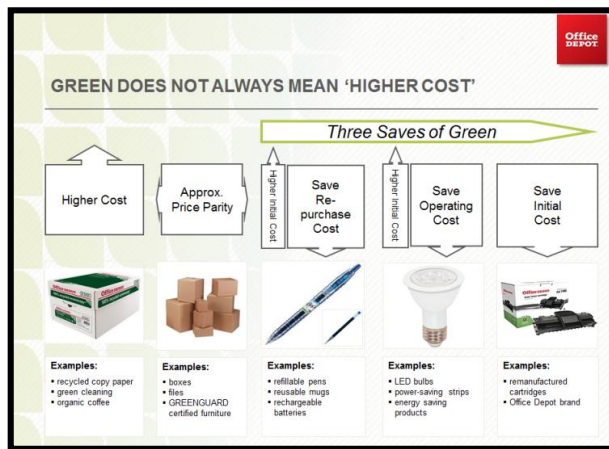
The County's purchasing goal<sup>4</sup> is to spend at least eight percent (8%) of its annual consumables budget on materials with recycled content or that provide some other specific conservation benefit. To be considered, these materials must also meet the program feasibility criteria for cost and operational efficiency.

Travis County has never been able to fully evaluate cost savings and environmental benefits of the purchasing policy. The existing methodology does not readily lend itself to tracking environmental parameters of products. However, it is possible to gauge recycled content based upon external information provided by key vendors like Office Depot. Office Depot is currently one of the only vendors who provides such information.

Additionally, the County continues to purchase recycled products such as:

- Re-manufactured toner cartridges
- Re-refined Oil
- Re-refined antifreeze
- Resource recovery materials

According to the Office Depot Greener Office Solutions program, the County spent a total of \$953,398 with Office Depot on various supplies. Of the total spending \$266,936 was on items with recycled content or Office Depot eco-labels<sup>5</sup>.



<sup>4</sup> (see Section 111.005 of the Travis County Waste Management Policy)

## Cost and Revenues

The County's waste streams are as diverse as the operations and services Travis County provides. From single-stream recycling and secure shredding at offices to tire recycling by road vehicle maintenance activities, and composting at correctional complexes Travis County integrates waste reduction across the entire organization. This report examines the waste streams by material. Other significant waste management costs not shown here are 1) Construction and demolition materials (C&D) and 2) Records shredding performed by Iron Mountain.

Commodity	FY2017 cost	FY2018 cost	Change FY17 – FY18
Landfill Services	\$193,012 <sup>5</sup>	\$186,253 <sup>6</sup>	-3%
Single-stream Recycling Services	\$72,460 <sup>7</sup>	\$102,348 <sup>8</sup>	41%

<sup>5</sup> Landfill cost considered sites with additional collection fees and locations with only 40yd roll-offs to manage facility waste.

<sup>6</sup> FMD committed to reducing landfill dumpsters at all facilities. This year's reduction contributed to a cost savings of \$6,759.

<sup>7</sup> The landfill services amount is using the net value for what was ordered and paid for the fiscal year.

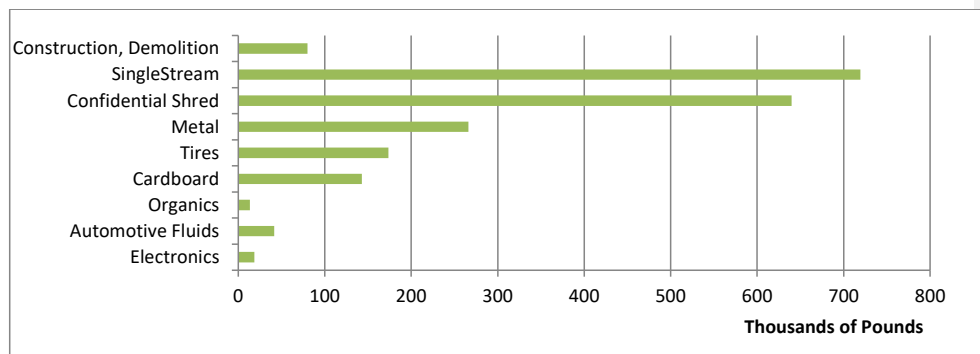
<sup>8</sup> This year we added 2 new locations to recycling and increased service frequency by 20%. The single stream contract was renewed as well with an increase in recycling services cost. The single stream recycling providers ordered for FY2017 was: Texas Disposal Systems \$96,667, Balcones Recycling Inc. \$5,681, and Texas Facilities Commission \$0

TRAVIS COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM FY2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Single Stream Services	FY2017 cost	FY2018 cost	Change FY17 – FY18
Balcones Recycling Services	\$2,550 <sup>9</sup>	\$5,681	122%
Texas Disposal Systems	\$70,951	\$96,667	38%
Texas Facilities Systems	\$0	\$0	N/A

The following three figures display the recycling of recycled material commodity classes by weight, the percentage of weight, and by revenue gained. Further detail for each follows below:

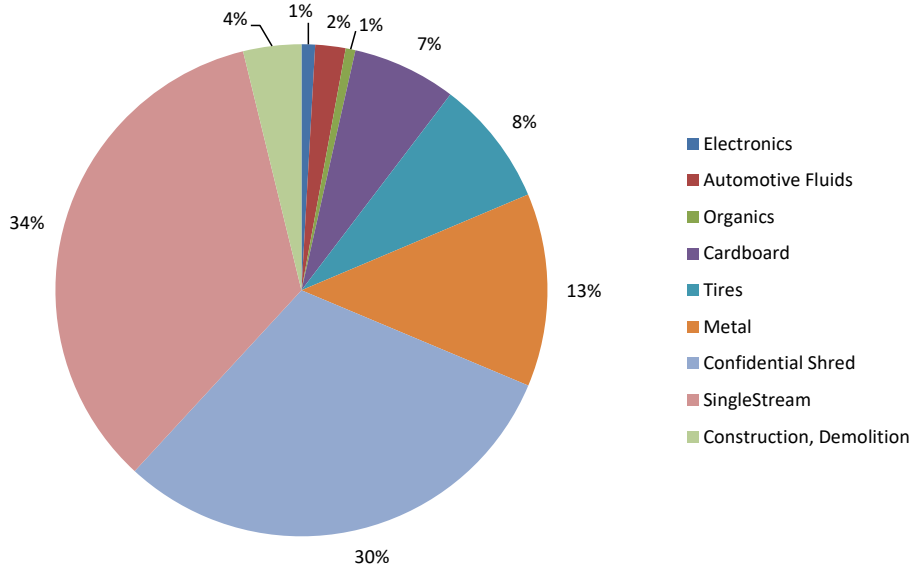
FY2018 Weight of Recycled Materials by Commodity Class



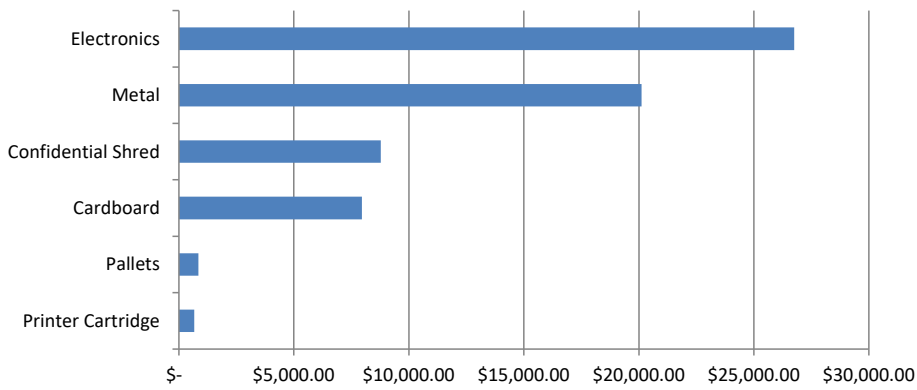
<sup>9</sup> Landfill cost considered sites with additional collection fees and locations with only 40yd roll-offs to manage facility waste.



FY2018 Percentage Weight of Recycled Materials by Commodity Class



FY2018 Recycling Revenue by Commodity Class



### **Office Recycling**

Recycling from 1996 to 2012 focused on specific departments/divisions that volunteered to participate in a recycling program, missing some large generators of recyclable materials. County facilities were not comprehensively examined for the potential of implementing a recycling program. On January 8, 2013, the Commissioners Court approved funds establishing a single-stream recycling program for all Travis County locations. Since April 1, 2013, Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) and Texas Facilities Commission (TFC) have provided single-stream recycling services for Travis County locations except for 700 Lavaca, which is serviced by Balcones Recycling. These recycling services offer the opportunity for all employees to access consistent recycling services.

Single-stream recycling allows for recyclable material (plastics 1-7, mixed paper, aluminum, glass, and flattened cardboard) to be placed in one cart. Appendix A is a recycling flyer that staff can post in their office(s) that shows what items are recyclable in a work location.

Commodity	FY2017 Recycled	FY2018 Recycled	% Change FY16 – FY17
<b>Single-stream (Mixed)<sup>10</sup></b>	738,148 lbs.	719,518 lbs.	-2%
<b>Confidential<sup>11</sup> Management Shred</b>	727,285 lbs.	639,802 lbs.	-12%

Reduce then recycle:

- Records Management Division purchased 5,915 cases of paper for business use; a decrease of 48% from 2010.

<sup>10</sup> Single Stream (Mixed) includes: Texas Disposal Systems 324,631 lbs., Texas Facilities System 315,200 lbs. and Balcones 79,687lbs.

<sup>11</sup> Confidential Management Shred is managed by the Records Management Division. The number represented in the graph is material from Balcones Recycling (31.72 tons) and Iron Mountain (283.82 tons).



*"I really feel since we started,  
most people have begun to  
see the recycling as just a  
regular part of the day."  
Kelly Overdorff*



## **Cardboard**

Prices for cardboard have varied greatly; from a high of \$86.50 to nearly half of that price. The Travis County Del Valle Correctional Facility is currently the only cardboard revenue-generating location. The Travis County Sheriff Office surplus staff gathers the material from the complex to be baled by kitchen inmate workers. The baling of cardboard by Travis County Sheriff's Office has been in place since the late nineties.

- Travis County recycled 143,020 lbs. of corrugated cardboard material in FY 2018<sup>12</sup>.
- The Health and Human Services (HHS) Community Centers generate a substantial amount of cardboard each week. Although recycled, no revenue is gained because HHS would need to separate it and collaborate with other departments to transport the material for pick up at Del Valle.

Commodity	FY2017 Recycled	FY2018 Recycled	% Change FY17-FY18	Revenue FY2017	Revenue FY2018
Cardboard	171,900 lbs.	143,020 lbs.	-16%	\$10,045	\$7,956



<sup>12</sup> The total recycled cardboard includes material picked up by vendor (Texas Disposal Systems). The County receives 65% of the revenue (based on tonnage and contract pricing) using the Official Board Market, SW Region Index.

## **Metals**

Chapter 111 of the Travis County Policies, Procedures, and Regulations Manual states "scrap metals shall be recycled, not landfilled." Scrap metal recycling has been in place at the County for over twenty years throughout the County and especially at the Transportation and Natural Resources satellite offices, Purchasing Assets Warehouse and the Correctional Complex. Recycling roll-off containers are placed at the Assets Warehouse, Eastside Service Center, Westside Service Center, and Del Valle Correctional Facility, and Weatherization office for scrap metal recycling.

- The following Transportation and Natural Resources division's staff manage metal recycling in the roll-offs: Fleet Services, Travis County Parks, and Road and Bridge staff.
- Travis County Sheriff's Office Corrections Division recycles metal generated in their kitchen as well as in their maintenance services building.

Commodity	FY2017 Recycled	FY2018 <sup>13</sup> Recycled	% Change FY17-FY18	Revenue FY2017	Revenue <sup>14</sup> FY2018
All Metals	500,347 lbs.	266,007 lbs.	-47%	\$19,187.83	\$ 20,117



*"Recycling metal creates 36 times more jobs than sending the same amount of metal waste to the incinerator, and six times more than sending the metal to a landfill"*  
National Institute of Health.

<sup>13</sup> The following departments recycle metal: TNR, Purchasing, Tax Office and Sheriff's Department. This year NREQ staff did not receive all the Commercial Metal invoices which provide the amount of metal recycled and revenue received. The 500,347 lbs. represents the information provided to NREQ staff for reporting purposes and the County may have recycled more than what is represented.

<sup>14</sup> The metal recycling revenue includes \$5,007 from Austin Metal and Iron, \$14,181 from Commercial Metal and \$63.28 for motor vehicle license plates.

### **Automotive**

Federal and Texas laws prohibit dumping used oil on land, or into sewers or waterways. This includes the use of used oil as a dust suppressant. Texas has also banned used oil filters from being placed in or accepted for disposal in landfills. Travis County's Waste Management Policy states all fleet maintenance wastes including used tires, spent motor oil, used oil filters, antifreeze/coolant, lead-acid batteries, and Freon should be recycled or disposed of properly.

- Travis County purchases and uses re-refined oil and antifreeze in all County vehicles.
- Travis County contracts with a vendor, Reliable Tire, to recycle tires. Travis County recycles tires generated from Fleet as well as illegally dumped tires collected from County right-of-way.

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>FY2017 Recycled</b>	<b>FY2018 Recycled</b>	<b>% Change FY17-FY18</b>	<b>Cost FY2017</b>	<b>Cost FY2018</b>
<b>Motor Oil In gallons</b>	4,226	5,390	27%	-\$105	\$405
<b>Antifreeze In gallons</b>	430	450	4%	N/A	N/A
<b>Shredded Tires</b>	204,108	173,720	-14%	-\$32,550	-\$39,327
<b>Fleet Lead Acid Batteries<sup>15</sup></b>	745	655	-12%	\$0	\$0
<b>Used Oil Filters</b>	21 drums	15 drums	-28%	\$0	\$0

<sup>15</sup> These numbers represent batteries recycled through a takeback program with Interstate battery at our fleet locations.



*Inventory Specialist, Darryl Bonhomm, goes above and beyond to make sure all automotive fluids, batteries and filters are recycled.*





### Electronics

Electronics include computers, keyboards, monitors, cell phones, telephones, desk-side printers, scanners, televisions and batteries. Lifecycle of electronics ends when the systems become obsolete. Travis County manages obsolete electronics in two ways. One is through an agreement with Dell, Inc. to take-back all Dell manufactured equipment for recycling or reuse. Travis County receives a portion of the revenue from the electronics Dell recycles. All other electronics not purchased through Dell are managed through the auction process.

Commodity	FY2017 Recycled	FY2018 Recycled	% Change FY17-FY18	Revenue FY2017	Revenue FY2018
Dell Components	32,227 lbs.	18,724 lbs.	-8 %	\$73,082	\$26,752

**Commented [TG1]:** This is wrong. Should be a 42% difference





### **Organic Materials**

Organic materials such as yard trimmings, food scraps, and wood waste typically make up about one-third of the municipal solid waste stream.

Chapter 111 of the Travis County's Waste Management Policy addresses the management of food waste, brush or yard trimmings, and dead animal waste stating all of the above materials should not be landfilled. For example, "cafeteria food wastes shall be considered for composting."

In FY2017 the only Travis County facility composting food waste was the Travis County Correctional Complex. The compost is then utilized in the on-site, 3.5-acre non-certified organic garden.

TNR Parks and Road & Bridge, as well as Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD) Groundskeeping staff, maintain lawns, trees, shrubs, rights of way, and perform other landscaping in their day-to-day activities. Tree trimmings from TNR Road & Bridge right of way work contributes to mulch used for the animal composting program. The TNR Parks arborist cuts dead trees and chips the trees into mulch. The mulch is then applied around trees at County parks which reduces the amount of water needed for irrigation.

<b>Commodity</b>	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>% Change FY17-FY18</b>
<b>Compost for Gardening</b>	300 <sup>16</sup> lbs.	13,500 lbs.	4,400 %
<b>Animal Composting</b>	127,660 lbs.	N/A <sup>17</sup>	N/A

<sup>16</sup> The garden was in furlough until a new supervisor was hired.

<sup>17</sup> Texas Disposal Systems has had a service change to no longer compost the dead animals from right of way.



Travis County Correctional Complex Composting Bays

**Pallets and Construction Demolition Debris**

In 2009 Commissioners Court approved a Green Building Policy to address construction and demolition waste. The Facilities Management Department (FMD) was authorized to use the principles of LEED to the greatest extent practical and reasonable for renovation and rehabilitation projects budgeted above one million dollars and each project will be assessed for the appropriate certification level with the goal of maximizing long-term benefits, such as operating and maintenance savings while minimizing up-front costs. The types of material generated in construction and demolition debris include concrete, wood, metals, carpet and gypsum board. The Facilities Management Department works with a vendor to separate and process construction and demolition debris to be reused or processed by a recycling company.

Another item generated in large quantities from County operations is pallets. Pallets arrive at County locations from the delivery of products for County operations. The Del Valle Correctional Facility, Eastside and Westside Service Centers are the current locations for recycling of pallets. The Del Valle Correctional Facility collects pallets from all Sheriff's Office facilities.

Commodity	FY2017 Recycled	FY2018 Recycled	% Change FY17-FY18	Revenue FY2017	Revenue FY2018
Pallets	3,280 units	2,902 units	-11 %	\$1,112	\$849
Construction Debris	733 tons	40 tons	-94%	N/A	N/A



## **Employee Programs**

In 2013, the Travis County Commissioners' Court approved two policies to encourage diversion within county operations. Travis County and the City of Austin executed the Zero Waste Inter-local Agreement to establish common goals, provide for coordinated efforts, and cooperate to implement zero waste strategies. The Commissioners also approved an implementation plan for expansion of recycling throughout all County facilities and operations consistent with the City of Austin Universal Recycling Ordinance (URO) where practical. Additionally, the inter-local agreement states Travis County will implement employee and public education campaigns.

### **Green Team Program**

In May 2015, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved an Order regarding recycling participation by all departments and offices of Travis County to optimize reuse, conservation and material recovery. The order created the Green Team Program with full participation encouraged by all departments and offices of Travis County. Since May 2015:

- 15 bi-annual Green Team training sessions have occurred.
- 58% of the overall County office spaces have a member.



*"Being socially responsible allows you to attract talent, because good people will align with the company that really cares about employees and communities. We link social responsibility to talent retention." [Robert Lawless, chairman, president and CEO, McCormick & Co. Inc.](#)*

### **Toner Ambassador Program**

Chapter 111, Section 111.006.A.4, states "Spent toner cartridges shall be recycled and remanufactured toner cartridges purchased". Travis County uses over 3,786 inkjet and toner cartridges each fiscal year, which creates a significant amount of waste.

The Toner Ambassador program puts toner recycling into the generator's hands. A volunteer from each department or office space registers with the toner recycling program as a collection site. The Toner Ambassador collects the cartridges then ships them to a contracted Office Depot vendor with a prepaid shipping label. Volunteers are recognized for their work with a certificate and letter of appreciation. When utilized, the toner recycling program it prevents up to 2,383 pounds of material from being landfill, and generates revenue.

Commodity	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY17-FY18	Revenue FY2017	Revenue FY2018
<b>Toner Cartridges Recycled</b>	3,076	2,787	-9%	\$853 <sup>18</sup>	\$666 <sup>19</sup>
<b>Toner Ambassadors</b>	83	95	14%	N/A	N/A



*"The boxes did not take up any space. I put them in our copier rooms and its working great." Celia Satterwhite, Court Clerk I, Constable Pct. 1*

<sup>18</sup> The revenue generation is connected to the types of cartridges being utilized as a remanufactured cartridge.

<sup>19</sup> The revenue generation is connected to the types of cartridges being utilized as a remanufactured cartridge.

### Recycling Supplies

County departments can contact TNREQ staff for recycling supplies. Supplies, such as recycling containers, are essential for an effective recycling program. TNR has a partnership with FMD where TNR staff purchases the recycle containers and FMD staff delivers the containers to various departments requesting recycling containers.

TNR staff offers recycling assessments to discuss what services the requesting department/division provides, existing conservation programs, and a tour of the work space to look for opportunities to increase diversion and/or decrease waste. Presentations were given throughout the year at the division and departmental meetings to provide employees with the knowledge and resources needed to recycle successfully.

- Through a partnership with Facilities, new dual stream containers were piloted in the 700 Lavaca Parking Garage (photo below).
- Three new locations were added to the recycling services contract.
- 20 departments requested recycling containers and minimax trash cans and were supported by the Recycling Program.

Commodity	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY17-FY18
Containers Distributed	338	128	-62%



*"Providing employees with a desk-side recycling bin and a smaller trash bin attached to it can serve as a success model for increasing recycling and reducing waste in the workplace."  
Keep America Beautiful, Recycling at Work Study*

### Universal Waste

Universal waste is a sub-category of Hazardous Waste. While the majority of hazardous waste is generated by industry and laboratories, universal waste is generated by nearly every business as well as private residents. Universal waste that is handled at The County includes: batteries, mercury containing devices, lamps/bulbs, pesticides, and paint and paint-related waste.

Travis County's Waste Management Plan states "collection bins shall be established for batteries in accordance with 40 CFR 261.24 and 30 TAC Chapter 335, Subchapter R." Used fluorescent light bulbs are also addressed in the policy.

In 2014, TNR began to address the need for proper disposal of universal waste by purchasing pre-paid containers for disposal of the above-mentioned items. The Facilities Management, Sheriff's Office, the County Clerk departments are currently participating in proper disposal of universal waste.

Commodity	FY2017 Recycled	FY2018 Recycled	% Change FY17-FY18
Fluorescent Lamps	3,630 units	1,008 units	-72%
Lamp Ballasts	95 lbs.	28 lbs.	-70%
Dry Cell Batteries	2,876 lbs.	2,913 lbs.	2%
Rechargeable Batteries	300 lbs.	358 lbs.	19%



*"Streamlined universal waste regulations promote environmentally sound collection practices and increase the proper recycling or treatment of such wastes."*  
Texas Commission for Environmental Quality

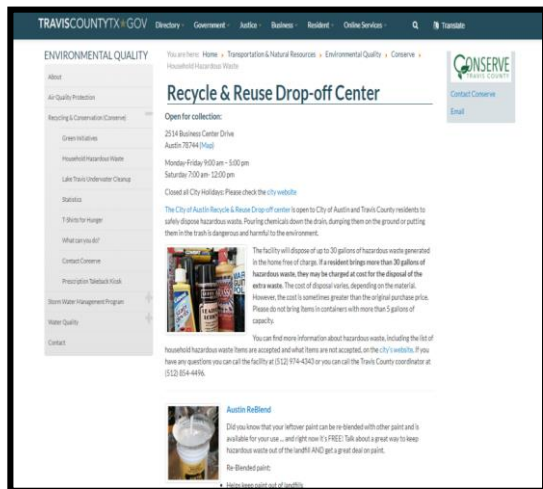
## Citizen Programs

The Zero Waste Inter-local Agreement with the City of Austin encourages public education campaigns to promote the reduction of waste and strive to achieve the goal of zero waste by 2040. Travis County does this through outreach and citizen programs.

### Outreach

Travis County reaches the public through the use of social media, the Conserve webpage, and Travis County cable channel 17 to promote programs.

Outreach	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY17-FY18
Conserve Website Hits	7,391	7,095	-4%
Outreach Events	4	4	0%



"Much of recycling program success lies in how well-informed the community is, since they are the key participants."  
Carton Council



### **T-Shirts for Hunger**

T-Shirts for Hunger is a project created in a partnership between TNR, Travis County Sheriff's Correctional Department and Travis County Health and Human Services. Used, unwanted t-shirts are collected from the community and correctional facility inmates sew the t-shirts into reusable bags. The bags are then used to distribute food at the seven Travis County Community Center food pantries.

The program teaches inmates sewing skills and provides County constituents reusable bags. The T-Shirts for Hunger Project was selected as the 1st place winner of the Texas Environmental Leadership Award under the Outstanding Recycling Partnership category by State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR).

- The program has the potential to save HHS from spending \$5,811 on plastic bags each year.

<b>T-Shirts for Hunger Program</b>	<b>FY2017</b>	<b>FY2018</b>	<b>% Change FY17-FY18</b>
<b>T-shirts Collected</b>	4,610 lbs.	15,600 lbs.	238%
<b>Reusable Shopping Bags Created</b>	8,564	954	-95%



*The clients often ask, "Am I allowed to keep this bag - or do I have to give it back?" They definitely see it as a valuable gift. They also often say they like the cloth bags better than plastic – because they hold more groceries and don't break. One client in particular started crying when she found out she could keep the bags – she said it would make a huge difference to her and her family since they were living out of their car.*

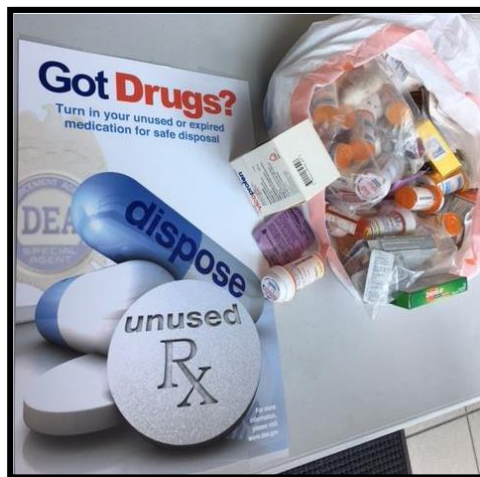
*Joy Stollings,  
Community Center Manager*

### **Pharmaceutical Take-back**

In 2016, Travis County expanded opportunities for citizens to properly dispose of expired medications. A partnership between Travis County and the City of Austin created a permanent kiosk for safe disposal of expired or unused prescription drugs available for public use year-round. Additionally, three County Constable offices participated in the bi-annual Drug Enforcement Administration take-back event. The DEA provides collection materials, organizes the officers, and pays for the incineration of pharmaceuticals collected for the bi-annual one-day event.

Both outlets provide an alternative to the improper methods for disposing of unused medicines. Common improper disposal methods include flushing medicines down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both of which pose potential safety and health hazards.

Pharmaceutical Take-back	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY17-FY18
Amount Collected from Events	863 lbs.	1,734 lbs.	101%
Kiosk	612 lbs.	564 lbs.	-8%



### **Christmas Tree Recycling**

The Travis County Christmas Tree Recycling program has been established for twenty years to provide the county residents a way to properly dispose of their trees.

- The program is set up for rural residents with locations at the Westside Service Center, Eastside Service Center and Del Valle Softball Field.
- All trees are turned into nutrient-rich mulch instead of being landfilled or burned

Event	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY17-FY18
Number of Trees Collected	772	67	-91%
Collection Sites	3	2	-33%



### **Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup**

The Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup is the largest scuba diving and shoreline cleanup in Texas. The event is hosted by the Colorado River Alliance, Keep Austin Beautiful, and Travis County Parks. Each year, local dive shops, residents, and other volunteers gathered to collect trash from the bottom of Lake Travis and shoreline, while also raising public awareness of the importance of Lake Travis, the Highland Lakes and shoreline parks.

- 17 cleanup locations along and in Lake Travis: 10 shoreline and 7 dive sites
- Approximately 26 miles of shoreline cleaned
- 1,775 volunteer hours contributed to clean in and along the lake

Event	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY17-FY18
Number of Volunteers	887	734	-17%
Litter Removed	1.54 tons	1.78 tons	109%
Litter Recycled	1,211 lbs.	4,320 lbs.	256%



"Thank you again for coordinating [one of the] the largest cleanups in Texas!"  
LTUCU Volunteer

### Partnerships

Travis County has several partnerships with current service providers, local non-profits, and incorporated cities to move our mission and zero waste goals forward. These partnerships are created through inter-local agreements, service agreements and mutual interests in the environment.



### **City of Austin**

In 2014, an agreement was formally executed between Travis County and the City of Austin (CoA) to share the goal of developing, promoting, and applying zero waste and sustainability strategies for the benefit of current and future generations. The CoA Resource Recovery Department continues to be an active collaborator on several waste diversion programs in Travis County.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Program**

Travis County continues to maintain an inter-local agreement with the City of Austin under which County constituents can use the City's hazardous waste drop-off facility. Several County facilities also have household battery collection containers that are serviced by CoA. The County pays for a full-time employee and a percentage of the disposal costs. Items accepted at the drop-off center include: hazardous waste (paint, batteries, lightbulbs), plastic film, art supplies, single-stream recycling, electronics and more.

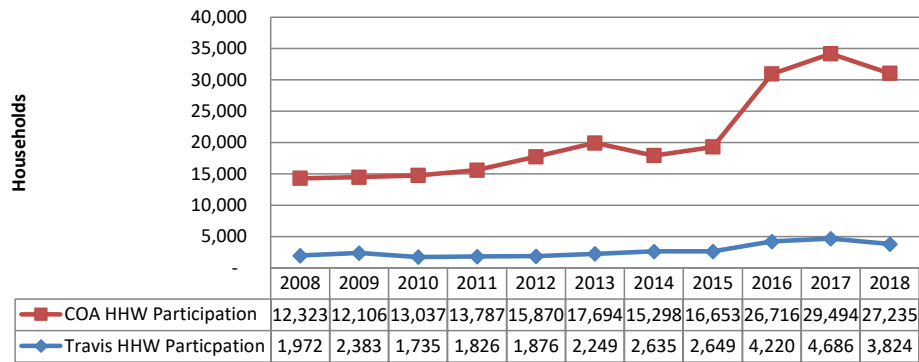
Commodity	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY17-FY18	Cost FY2017	Cost FY2018
County Households Served	4,686	3,824	-18 %	\$143,037	\$135,567
Diversion (lbs.) <sup>20</sup>	50%	47%	-6%	-	-

*"As the proliferation of mobile devices and other battery-powered gadgets continue to grow rapidly, it's more important than ever for consumers to know where to responsibly recycle their used batteries."*

*Tim Warren, Call2Recycle*

<sup>20</sup> Diversion for household hazardous waste facility are materials measured in pounds diverted through programs such as Austin ReBlend, Restore, DRAW, and recycling oil.

### Household Hazardous Waste Participation



#### Household Battery Recycling

Recycling batteries help sustain the environment because batteries contain metals that can be harmful to the environment if not disposed of properly. Travis County staff has stepped forward with their concerns on battery disposal from home and work. These staff members each made the commitment to monitor a battery collection site at their buildings. They contact CoA when there needs to be a collection.

Battery Disposal	FY2017	FY2018	% Change FY16-FY17
Number of Locations	9	9	0%
Amount Recycled	972 lbs.	607 lbs.	-25%



### **Keep Austin Beautiful & Anti-litter Education**



Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide resources and education to engage citizens in building more beautiful communities. Travis County and KAB have been in a partnership since 1993 to collaborate on initiatives such as:

- Lake Travis Clean-up
- Adopt a Creek program
- Cleanups in Travis County's Parks

This year Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) and Travis County Parks partnered to pilot an "Adopt a Park" program at Richard Moya Park. Jet Blue committed to volunteering every quarter for the FY2018 year.

*"I keep Austin beautiful by  
picking up certain trash I see,  
when I am walking in the  
public parks with my wife and  
two sons" Yeriel*



### **Recommendations**

It is important to recognize the knowledge gained through data is by creating relevant goals and awareness of opportunities to improve performance. The recommendations below are suggested to improve the program through accountability, performance, and feedback.

1. TNR-EQ should develop an education program on sustainability indicators that will include a training module in SAP.
2. Broaden the scope of the Green Steering Committee to focus on sustainability indicators.
3. Include a recyclable-material processing facility in Facilities Management Department's Facility Master Plan.
4. Encourage individual departments and elected officials to include performance measures aligned with the sustainability indicators.
5. Develop a recognition program led by the Green Team.
6. Initiate the development of a Climate Action Plan.